

Application No. 09/916,181
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2003

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18, as amended, are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 11-15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Abstract has been rewritten to reduce its length to less than 150 words. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Telephone Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted on November 18, 2003 in which Applicant's attorney of record explained the previously provided Proposed Amendment including amendments to claims 1, 5 and 15. The Examiner stated that the amendments to claims 1, 5 and 15 should be filed as submitted in the Proposed Amendment.

Objection to the Abstract

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for having a length greater than 150 words. Applicants have replaced the Abstract with a new Abstract having a length less than 150 words. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 5 and 15 for reciting abbreviations ROI and CAD. Applicants have replaced ROI with "regions of interest" and CAD with "computer aided design" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant has further amended claims 1 and 15 to clarify the claim language and make the claim language consistent with terminology used in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 1, 5 and 15.

Claims 11-14

Applicants amended claims 11-14 to replace the term ROI with "regions of interest". Applicants further amended claim 11 to correct minor typographical errors.

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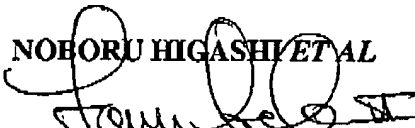
Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 1-18, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 1-18 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

November 18, 2003
(Date)

By:

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